

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-10

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NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 IO-10 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /059 W

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R 231400Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3654

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1373

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJECT: STEEL AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES FEDERATION (SEIFSA)

LOOKS AT MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1278

1. SEIFSA DIRECTOR ERROL DRUMMOND HAS PREDICTED THAT STEEL AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRY (ALREADY SOUTH AFRICA'S LARGEST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY) WILL REQUIRE AT LEAST 125,000 ADDITIONAL WORKERS (70PERCENT OF THEM SKILLED OR SEMI-SKILLED) DURING NEXT FIVE YEARS TO KEEP PACE WITH ANTICIPATED EXPANSION, INCLUDING SASOL #2.

2. DRUMMOND ESTIMATES THAT ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF ADDITIONAL WORKERS WILL HAVE TO BE SKILLED WHITES (INCLUDING SOME RECRUITED ABROAD) WHICH MEANS THAT ABOUT 50 PERCENT WILL HAVE TO BE SKILLED OR SEMI-SKILLED NON-WHITES.

3. REFERRING TO JOINT EMPLOYER-TRADE UNION COMMITTEE FORMED TO CONSIDER FUTURE OF BLACK WORKERS IN INDUSTRY (REFTTEL) DRUMMOND SPOKE OF POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING APPRENTICESHIP PERIOD FOR MOST OF ABOUT 50 TRADES IN INDUSTRY FROM FOUR TO THREE YEARS
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AND OF MAKING VARIOUS LIBERAL CHANGES IN INDUSTRY'S PROGRAMS

FOR TRAINING BLACKS.

4. JOINT COMMITTEE SCHEDULED TO HOLD FIRST MEETING EARLY IN
1975.

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